

Earlybirds Newsletter

January 2019



News from the Earlybirds Team

I would like to welcome all our families back to a new year at Earlybirds, including those families who have just recently started with us. This year we are due to have our fencing replaced and are just waiting for final details to be agreed with Hampshire County Council before work to replace the fences begins. There should be minimal disruption as a result of the works which will be completed by the team who have recently installed the playground improvements at the infant school but we will keep you informed of any relevant information.

On a different note, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Hayley Fahy who was appointed in November to as a 1:1 support assistant. Unfortunately Miss Fahy has had to resign with immediate effect this month due to personal circumstances and we wish her all the best and thank her for her time with us. We are currently re-advertising this position.

We will also shortly be advertising for a new pre-school leader as, after three years in post, I will be stepping down at the end of the academic year to focus on my leadership role and responsibilities within Newtown Soberton. I have hugely enjoyed the role and have been privileged to work with delightful children and families and a dedicated and passionate staff team during my time in the post. Together we have continued to build on and strengthen existing good practice as well as introducing new initiatives to secure the best possible outcomes for the children in our care. We have achieved a great deal whilst also strengthening the links and transition between the school and pre-school. I will still remain at Newtown Soberton as Early Years Leader and will also remain an active member of the pre school committee, alongside Mrs Howell as Chair, to ensure the close links and supportive partnership with the infant school are sustained. The intention is to recruit a new leader over the coming months to enable a transition handover period before I step down in September 2019 and we will keep families informed of our progress towards this over the coming months.

Staff Members

Lucy Chambers – Leader and Safeguarding Lead
Marina Moro – Deputy Leader and Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Anne Slade - SENCo and Pre School Assistant
Jane Waller - Pre School Assistant

Reminder

Please remember to close and bolt the gate that leads onto the main road.

Please do not park in the layby or on the zigzag lines at any time.

We are a NUT FREE pre-school.

Reminders

Please remember that we are a nut free pre-school. This includes fruit and nut snack packs and nut bars. This is very important to protect children with nut allergies.

Please help us look after your child's belongings by naming everything, including water bottles. This also helps the staff easily identify children's bottles, particularly as some children have similar bottles or may not easily identify their own amongst other children's.

Session availability

If you would like to increase your child's sessions, we have limited availability for certain sessions. Please speak to a member of staff.

Wow moments on Tapestry

Please remember to add any of your child's WOW moments onto Tapestry. Please also feel free to add any observations you have noticed of your child as this provides a holistic picture of them. It would be particularly useful if parents could add observations of their child using any technology they have at home as we have limited resources for this in the pre-school.

Key Dates

Spring Term 2019

- **Monday 7th Jan - Friday 5th April**

Summer Term 2019

- **Tuesday 23rd April - Tuesday 23rd July**

Staff training INSET dates (pre-school closed):

- Monday 25th/Tuesday 26th Feb and Friday 21st June.
- **Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February HALF TERM**
- Monday 4th – Friday 8th March: Book Week as part of World Book Day celebrations – dress as a book character this week
- Tuesday 5th March 8.00 – 9.00am: Pancake Day Breakfast – families welcome to join us for pancakes!
- 1st – 5th April: Stay and Play (Mothering Sunday themed)
- Friday 5th April 9.15am: Easter Bonnet Parade with Newtown Soberton Infant School
- Friday 5th April 3pm: Spring Term finishes
- **Monday 8th April – Monday 22nd April EASTER BREAK**